

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02282 091539Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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/124 W

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P 091425Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4013
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBERVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 2282

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

3.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, SW
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: DISSIDENT SWAPO LEADER IN STOCKHOLM

1. DISSIDENT SWAPO LEADER, ANDREAS SHIPANGA, IS VISITING STOCKHOLM
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TO CONSULT WITH FORMER SWAPO ASSOCIATES RECENTLY RELEASED FROM
TANZANIAN JAILS. OF THE 19 SWAPO PRISONERS RELEASED IN MAY, SIX
HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN SWEDEN. SHIPANGA GRANTED AN INTERVIEW TO
DAGENS NYHETER, SWEDEN'S LARGEST DAILY. AMONG THE POINTS MADE
BY SHPANGA ARE THE FOLLOWING:
A. ON SWAPO: "I DO NOT LOOK UPON SWAPO AND ITS PRESIDENT,
SAM NUJOMA, AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO SOUTH AFRICAN RULE IN

NAMIBIA. ONE MEANS WHITE OPPRESSION, THE OTHER JUST MEANS BLACK OPPRESSION." SHIPANGA BELIEVES THAT NUJOMA WOULD REJECT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, NOT BECAUSE OF WALVIS BAY OR THE PROBLEM OF SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY BASES, BUT BECAUSE SWAPO WOULD LOSE A FREE ELECTION. SHIPANGA SAYS: "NUJOMA AND THE OTHER SWAPO LEADERS KNOW THAT SWAPO HAS LOST A GREAT DEAL OF ITS POPULARITY IN NAMIBIA AFTER WE WERE IMPRISONED. SWAPO DOES NOT DARE TO RUN IN THE ELECTION SINCE THE LEADERS WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT US DURING AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN."

B. WESTERN FIVE PROPOSALS: "I HAVE STUDIED THE PROPOSALS OF THE WESTERN FIVE WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY SOUTH AFRICA, AND I AM OF THE OPINION THAT THEY CONSTITUTE AN ACCEPTABLE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH NAMIBIA CAN BECOME A FREE COUNTRY. THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR ALL THESE YEARS."

C. ON ARMED STRUGGLE: "IT IS DANGEROUS NONSENSE TO BELIEVE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY CAN BE DEFEATED MILITARILY IN NAMIBIA. IF WE CAN OBTAIN THE SAME RESULTS DIPLOMATICALLY RATHER THAN THROUGH MILITARY FORCE, WHY NOT? WHY SHOULD PEOPLE BE SACRIFICED FOR THE LOFTY PRINCIPLES OF SOME OF THE LEADERS? MANY PEOPLE WOULD DIE, AND THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE WOULD SUFFER TERRIBLY."

D. ON HIS IMPRISONMENT: "SWAPO NEVER PRESENTED ANY EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF ITS ACCUSATIONS. THEY LIED, AND DURING THE ENTIRE TIME I WAS IN JAIL, I WAS NEVER GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND MYSELF. I WISH I DID NOT

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HAVE TO SAY THIS ABOUT TANZANIA, A COUNTRY I SUED TO ADMIRE A GREAT DEAL. ALL TANZANIAN PRISONERS IN MAY JAIL WERE TORTURED. THE CONDITIONS THERE WERE TERRIBLE. I WAS IN THE SAME CELL WITH A YOUNG BOY WHO HAD HIS EARDRUMS PUNCTURED; ANOTHER WAS BLINDED FROM TORTURE. THERE WERE MANY CHILDREN IN THE PRISONS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 5 AND 14. NOT EVEN IN SOUTH AFRICA WERE CHILDREN SO MALTREATED."

E. ON HIS FUTURE PLANS: SHIPANGA SAID THAT HE PLANS TO CONTINUE HIS WORK ON BEHALF OF A FREE NAMIBIA BUT HAS NOT YET DETERMINED HOW HE WILL PROCEED. DURING HIS IMPRISONMENT, HE WAS NOT PERMITTED BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS, VISITORS, OR ANY CORRESPONDENCE. CONSEQUENTLY, HE DOES NOT FEEL READY YET TO MAKE DEFINITIVE STATEMENTS ABOUT THE NAMIBIAN SITUATION. HE NOTED THAT HE FEELS AN AFFINITY FOR A RECENTLY FORMED CENTER COALITION, BUT HE IS NOT READY TO ANNOUNCE HIS SUPPORT FOR THE GROUP. HE IS NOW STUDYING THE SITUATION TOGETHER WITH HIS ASSOCIATES.

2. COMMENT: SHIPANGA'S INTERVIEW ADDS AN INTERESTING NEW DIMENSION TO THE NAMIBIAN DEBATE IN SWEDEN, HERETOFORE WHOLLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE SWAPO CAUSE. GOS HAD REACTED QUITE HARSHLY TO THE RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN

ASSULT ON SWAPO BASES IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA, AND ONLY
LAST WEEK ANNOUNCED A DOUBLING OF ITS AID TO SWAPO--FROM
10 MILLION UP TO 20 MILLION KRONER--FOR FISCAL YEAR
1977-78.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, SW, SWAPO, (SHIPANGA, ANDREAS)
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